

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH January 9, 2007

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Frank Maher; Bill Munroe; Robert Bollengier, and Mary Walsh. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; and Student Member Geoffrey Southworth were present.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Chair DeSack read the District Mission Statement.

OPEN FORUM – Parent/volunteer Patricia D’Andrea voiced her concerns and expressed her opinion that she is not comfortable with the cleanliness of Metcalf School. She requested that the personnel responsible for cleanliness assess what needs to be done. Superintendent Geismar thanked Mrs. D’Andrea for coming forward and said that he will investigate her concerns and will resolve this matter as quickly as possible. He asked Mrs. D’Andrea to provide him

with her phone number so that he can follow-up with her regarding this topic.

Parent/teacher Chris Southworth read a letter that was sent to her son Student Member Geoffrey Southworth from Congressman James R. Langevin awarding him a Principle Nomination to the U. S. Naval Academy. Administrators, School Committee members, and audience members gave Geoffrey a standing ovation and offered him congratulations.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Geoffrey Southworth reported that exams will begin on this Friday and the new semester will begin shortly thereafter. Geoffrey gave a brief overview of high school sports' highlights, noting that the girls' basketball team is presently in a three-way tie for the Division I Title and that the boys' basketball and wrestling teams are doing well also. Lastly, Geoffrey reported that the Winter Ball will be held on February 3, 2007.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

At the request of the Superintendent, Chair DeSack pulled and postponed consent agenda items, B. Personnel, 1. Appointments, a. Elizabeth Lind as Sr. High School Art Club Co-Advisor, effective for the 2006 0- 2007 school year, Stipend, one-half of \$1,230 and b.

Nichole Pichette as Sr. High School Art Club Co-Advisor, effective for the 2006 – 2007 school year, Stipend, one-half of \$1,230 to a future agenda in order to

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allow Superintendent Geismar time to discuss and appropriately determine with the Teachers' Association the accurate stipend amount for this position.

Member Walsh moved to accept the consent agenda with item, B. Personnel, 1. Appointments, a. and b. pulled. Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted 7 – 0.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of December 12, 2006, Executive Session Minutes of December 12, 2006

B. Personnel Items

- 1. Appointments**
- 2. Leaves of absence**
- 3. Resignations**
- 4. Grievances**

C. Bills – In the amount of \$334,015.49

D. Home School Approvals

1. CARPENTER – Laura, Leah, Kristen

2. DOYLE – Kathryn

3. SPECIALE – Nikki and Mia

End Consent Agenda

Chair DeSack reviewed the correspondence.

Correspondence (1) Revised and Approved School Committee Meetings 2007 Dates, (2) School Committee Organization December 2006 to November 2008, (3) January 2007 Agenda – Budget Workshops, (4) January 4, 2007 Memo from Member Bollengier to School Committee Members, (5) Superintendent's Report, (6) Resolution of the Exeter Town Council, (7) KeyWork Reminder

MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS – Business – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding the Business Status Report.

Curriculum – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding the Curriculum Status Report.

Special Services – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding the Special Services Status Report.

Maintenance – In response to Member Coutcher recommendation, consensus of the committee was to carry the Maintenance Status Report over to the next regular School Committee meeting agenda along with parent/volunteer Pat D’Andrea’s concerns regarding the cleanliness at Metcalf School.

Technology – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding the Technology Status Report.

Monthly Budget Projection 2006 – 2007 – Director of Administration Robert Ross, Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo, and members had a general discussion about the various Special Services Max & Equal Opportunity Expenses line item categories listed on the 2006 – 2007 Operations Projection Report. Ms. DeCrescenzo said that she will provide members with a more detailed account at tomorrow night’s Special Education Budget Workshop. Mr. Ross said that he anticipates a complete audit will be provided to members by the end of January or the beginning of February. In response to Member Bollengier’s statement that he has numerous questions and/or concerns regarding the budget, Chair DeSack gave an overview of the budget workshop process and said she anticipates that Member Bollengier’s questions will probably be answered during

that process. She said that members will be provided with a final audit to review. Mr. Ross said that the projected numbers are included in the budget books that will be distributed to members this evening.

Budget 2007 – 2008 – Superintendent Geismar gave a summary of how the district's budget is subsidized through municipalities and state funding. He expressed appreciation for the municipalities' contributions. He explained that the legislature recently enacted a law that caps school district budgets at a 5.25% increase which will then decrease each year by .25% until the maximum increase is 4%. This is different from past years in that municipalities can no longer fund above the legislated increase. Superintendent Geismar said that he anticipates that the district can hope for a little more than one million dollars from municipalities this year. He advised that salaries and health cost increases alone equal close to one million dollars. Dr. Geismar said that this will require the district to be creative when figuring out how to balance the budget within the guidelines. He said that he will investigate options and that this will require hard work and hard decision making.

Chair DeSack gave a summary of the RIASBO meeting that she, Member Munroe, Mr. Ross, and Interim Superintendent DiPrete recently attended which focused on what the legislated 5.25 cap on appropriations means for school districts. She said that there were many inquiries at the meeting about how the cap will affect regional

school districts, but there were limited answers as that aspect is still being looked at. She reported that only one town can present a budget. She said that capital improvements are included in the 5.25 cap and that the only other option for capital improvements funding available is to go out for bond since that is not included in the cap. Chair DeSack emphasized that the

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district will have to think of other alternatives. Members briefly discussed the Carrullo Act.

NEW BUSINESS – Emergency Response Communications – Director of Administration Robert Ross explained the district's current network of 20 Nextel/Sprint phones and the proposed purchase of 40 replacement Nextel/Sprint phones. These communication devices are the next piece needed to move to the education and drilling stage of emergency preparedness. This purchase will be eligible for federal rebates offered through the NSLB E-Rate program. After discussing this matter, consensus of the committee was to carry this item to the next regular School Committee agenda for further discussion and a vote; and to have Mr. Ross research and bring with him to the next meeting information concerning Homeland Security Grant funding availability.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – SAT Prep Course Program – Consensus was to have Superintendent Geismar discuss this matter with the Teachers' Association president in order to define the SAT Prep Course instructor position. Upon completion of defining the position, the Superintendent will re-advertise the vacancy. This item will be carried over and will be discussed in open session.

Metcalf Fire Alarm – Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that AFA has made an amendment to the Metcalf School fire alarm system project contract. He said that he has referred the document to Attorney Nick Gorham for his review and is awaiting Mr. Gorham's legal opinion/advice regarding whether the district should accept the amended contract. Member Bollengier asked clarifying questions and expressed that as an attorney he is uncomfortable about the committee accepting the amended contract. He said that he would like to see the amendment firsthand. After further discussion it was determined that AFA did not write the contract. The contract was written by the district's architectural firm L.A. Torrado Architects. Upon learning these new circumstances, Member Bollengier said that he is now willing to approve the amended contract subject to Attorney Gorham's review and approval of the amendment. Consensus of the committee is to accept the amended contract contingent upon Attorney Gorham's review and agreement of the amendment. Member Munroe added that he agreed as long as he is able to see a copy of the contract at tomorrow night's budget workshop. This item will remain on the agenda for the next regular

meeting.

Policies – Review and Adoption - #6205 – Employee Protection from Bloodborne Pathogens – 2nd Reading – Members did not express and questions or concerns regarding this policy. This policy will continue to the next regular School Committee agenda for adoption.

REPORTS/COMMENTS – None

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IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Wednesday, January 10, 2007 – Special Education Budget Workshop; Monday, January 15, 2006 – Martin Luther King Day; Tuesday, January 16, 2007 – Elementary Budget Workshop; Thursday, January 18, 2007 – Junior High School Budget Workshop; Monday, January 22, 2007 – Districtwide/Facilities/Athletics Budget Workshop; Tuesday, January 23, 2006 – School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, January 30, 2007 Senior High School Budget Workshop; Wednesday, January 31, 2007 – Town Council/School Committee Joint Meeting; Thursday, February 1, 2007 – Budget Workshop (if needed)

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Chair DeSack announced that Executive Session has been postponed.

Member Maher and Vice Chair Cicero asked clarifying questions relating to the installation of RI Health Department mandated hand sanitizer dispensers in all school buildings. Superintendent Geismar reported that all dispensers have been installed by the district's maintenance department and said that the district will be responsible for refilling the dispensers going forward. He thanked the maintenance department staff for their hard work and also expressed thanks to the nurses, teachers, and parents for their efforts concerning this matter. Member Maher recommended discussing this issue further at the districtwide budget workshop.

ADJOURNMENT – Member Maher moved to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0. Meeting adjourned 8:10 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK